particularly in the areas of atomic energy, space sciences, agriculture, bio-technology, drugs and pharmaceuticals, industrial catalysts, food processing, construction materials, leather processing etc.

Government have always placed high emphasis on constantly improving standards of Research and Development and to encourage students to take up science as a career. A number of initiatives have been taken to improve the quality of science education and scientific temper, such as National Children Science Congress, National Science Olympiad Programme, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, Swaran Jayanti Fellowship for Young Scientists, Better Opportunities for Young Scientist in Chosen Areas of Science & Technology for training in leading international laboratories, fast track programme for young scientist, bio-technology fellowship to young students and scientists, CSIR programme on youth for Leadership in Science, opportunities to young science students for interaction with Nobel laureates, visiting fellowships, summer schools, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship Scheme, training programmes to enable students interact with scientist in national laboratories, etc. The Government atso supports NGOs under the "Improvement of Science Education in Schools Scheme" to take up innovative programmes amongst the youth for inculcation of scientific temper.

Changes in Gadgil Formula

†992. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring about changes in the Gadgil Formula on allocation of Central assistance to the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the States performing fairly well in the field of State tax collection and fiscal management stand losers as a result of the proposed changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Since the States have sought a revision of the Gadgil Formula for allocation of Normal Central Assistance to States, Planning Commission has sought their views and suggestions

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been received from various State Governments. However, there is wide divergence in the views amongst the States in this regard. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for performance, the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for backwardness. Hence, the full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 27th and 29th June, 2001 discussed, *inter-alia,* the issue of revision of Gadgil Formula and in view of the divergence of the views among the State Governments and the sensitivity of the issue, it was decided that it would be necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

Reforms for creation of ten million jobs

993. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Planning Commission panel has recommended drastic reforms in the areas of marketing, training and credit in non-corporate and agricultural sector to fulfil Prime Minister's directive of creative ten million extra jobs annually in ten,years; and

(b) if so, the details of the reforms and the action taken/being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VttSUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A Task force on Employment Opportunities, set up by the Planning Commission, gave detailed recommendations in the area of marketing, training, etc. for creation of 10 million additional jobs annually in the next 10 years. A copy of the report is available in the Parliament Library.

The recommendations of the Task Force were made in a medium term perspective of ten years and covered a wide range of policy reforms to be undertaken.These recommendations have subsequently been examined by a Special Group (Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities per year over the Tenth Plan period) set up to suggest strategies for the Tenth Plan period. The report of the Special Group has been forwarded to Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments and a copy is also placed in Parliament Library.